and ultra-sacerdotal activities, at last, terminated in the all-embracing, all-absorbing and all-unifying ocean of the

Upanishads.

The *Upanishads* originally formed parts of the concluding chapters of the *Brahmanas* and *Aranyakas* which seemed to liave been from the beginning their proper repositories, Hence they were called the *Vedanta,* the *anta* or end of the Vedas. This is the ordinarily accepted interpretation of the expression *Vedanta* | But there is another school of annotators like Pro. Max-Muller who hold that *Vedanta,* as a technical term, did not mean originally the last portions of the Veda or chapters placed, as it were, at the end of the volume of Vedic literature, but the end, *i.e.,* the object, the gist or the substance of Vedic teaching. But whatever the original sense of ths term *Vedanta* might have bsen, we find that as a matter of fact *ths Upanishads are the philosophy oftJve Vedic religion, an exposition of the true scope and meaning of the" Vedas, the true- kernel of the whole Veda, the anta or conclusion drawn from the unsystematic speculations scattered throughout the Vedas—that the world proceeds from and rest^ in One Infinite and Undivided Being and that union with this*

Being is the highest good attainable by man.

That the *Upanishads* are the original *Vedanta* or *Vedantas* is declared by some of the Upanishads themselves. Thus the *Svetasvatara Upanishad* says in verse 7 of Chapter I:—

"The Supreme Brahman is sung in the Vedanta" Again in verse 22 of •Chapter VI:—*"This very secret doctrine, taught in a former age in the- Vedanta, should not be imparted to one whose mind is not tranquil, and to an unworthy son or disciple."*

The *Mundaka Upanishad*—III. 2-6 says:—*<c All these ascetics.who have -properly known the object'{i.e., Brahman] of the science of the Vedanta and whose hearts have been purified by detachment from the world, all become immortal in the world of Brahman at the end of their earthly existence, and are finally liberated J'* That the *Upanishads* alone are the original